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# Safety Protocol for Classes During COVID-19

## *(As of September 1, 2022)*

Kirby Hall School's Safety Protocol is subject to change as we continually monitor CDC and Austin Health Department recommendations and requirements. Masking on Kirby Hall's campus is now optional, but can become mandatory if conditions change.

### **Personal Preventative Measures**

- If wearing a mask, please wear it properly covering both the nose and mouth.
- Handwashing and using hand sanitizers will be encouraged and enforced.
- Social distancing will still be observed as a safety precaution as long as we are still in a pandemic.
- Increased ventilation is provided in classrooms.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Stay home if feeling unwell.
- Do not share food or drinks.

### **School Measures**

- Face masks are optional while on Kirby Hall's campus.
  - UV lights are installed in air handler coils and ducts with a 254 nm. This system has proven to kill up to 99.9% of bacteria, pathogens and mold.
  - Social distancing will still be observed as a safety precaution as long as we are still in a pandemic.
  - When worn, masks must fit securely over the nose and mouth and not hang openly below as with a bandana.
  - Lunches will be eaten in the cafeteria and outside for those opting to wear masks.
  - An isolation area, which will be cleaned and disinfected after each use, will be available for anyone feeling ill or showing any of the COVID-19 symptoms.
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## **COVID-19 Symptoms**

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19. Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness.

## **When to Quarantine**

- If a child develops COVID, the class will not be shut down. The child will be required to isolate for the full five days and return to school with a negative test on day six. If they still test positive, they will need to remain home for an additional five days. If after ten days their symptoms have improved, they can return to school without testing.
- Any child in the class of the positive case who exhibits symptoms of the coronavirus or is not vaccinated will be required to quarantine for five days and if they test negative can return to school on day six. If they test positive then they will also need to isolate for an additional five days and return to school after day ten without testing, if their symptoms have improved.
- If you had confirmed COVID-19 within the past 90 days, you do NOT need to get tested, but you should still follow all other recommendations (including if you develop COVID-19 symptoms).

## **Identifying Possible COVID-19 Cases on Campus**

- Any student who shows symptoms of these infections while at school will be immediately separated until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian.
  - All areas used by the individual who shows symptoms while at school (student, teacher, or staff) will be disinfected as soon as is feasible.
  - Students who report feeling feverish will be given an immediate temperature check to determine whether they are symptomatic for COVID-19.
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## **Practices to Respond to a Lab-Confirmed Case in the School**

Required Actions if Individuals with Lab-Confirmed Cases Have Been in a School:

1. Areas will be closed off that were heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 5 days have already passed since that person was on campus.
2. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, Kirby Hall will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any on-campus activities.

### **When to Isolate**

If you do get COVID-19, you should isolate yourself from others for at least five days, since that's the window when you're most likely to spread the virus. The day that you test positive is Day 0, and Day 1 is the first full day that follows.

### **In order to return to school after testing positive for COVID-19 (and isolating for five days), you must:**

**1)** Have a negative test on Day 6 following your five days of isolation and no further fever or symptoms.

**or**

**2)** Isolate until you test negative and have no symptoms or up until Day 10, at which point you may return to school even if still testing positive as long as you are fever and symptom-free.

We also recognize that people who have recently had COVID may continue to test positive for as many as three months afterwards despite the fact that their symptoms have subsided and they are no longer contagious.

### **Traveling**

When traveling, it is a good idea to check the status of the COVID-19 levels (high, moderate, low) in the areas you will be traveling to and from. This will help you to determine the precautions you may need to take to keep you and those around you safe.

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